

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A post-operative chest support comprising a chest encircling band having at least a portion of stretchable material, characterised in that the band further comprises means for manually varying the tension of the band which are wholly or partially concealed within pockets.
2. (Original) The support according to claim 1, wherein the band has shoulder straps mounted thereon.
3. (Currently Amended) A support according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the band is secured around the chest of a patient with Velcro tabs.
4. (Currently Amended) A support according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, 1 wherein the means for manually varying the tension comprise handles or grips.
5. (Currently Amended) A support according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ 1 which is constructed from a flexible material.
6. (Currently Amended) A support according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ 1 which lacks a mechanical moving part such as a pulley or other such drawstring elements for mechanically adjusting its tension or any other such skin irritating feature.
7. (Currently Amended) A support according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ 1 which is non-irritating to the skin of a patient such that it can be worn next to the skin.
8. (Currently Amended) A support according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ 1 which is sterile.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of altering the tension applied to a patient's chest following surgery, comprising wearing a post-operative chest support according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 and increasing or decreasing the tension of the band by applying pressure to the means for manually varying the tension of the band.